

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W

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R 010600Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9006

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, KS

SUBJ: GOP RELATIONS WITH ROK

REF: STATE 37265, ISLAMABAD 4786

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (EAST ASIA) SELIMUZZAMAN TO URGE THAT GOP RECONSIDER ITS POSITION AND ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROK.

2. SELIM RECALLED THAT USG HAS RAISED MATTER WITH GOP LAST MAY AND REFERRED TO POINTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR BY PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AT THAT TIME. RETIONALE AS DEVELOPED BY BHUTTO REMAINED BASIS FOR GOP APPROACH TO ISSUE AND, IN SELIM'S VIEW, THERE HAD BEEN NO FRESH DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THAT TIME SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT CHANGING IT. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT GOP RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA PLAYS IN DETERMINING ITS APPROACH TO ISSUE. HE SAW LITTLE PROSPECT OF ANY CHANGE IN GOP POLICY REGARDING KOREA AT THIS TIME, BUT PROMISED AT POL COUNSELOR'S REQUEST TO SEND A PAPER REFLECTING OUR DEMARCHE TO HIGHER MFA LEVEL, PRESUMABLY FOREIGN SECRETARY.

3. WE EXPECT TO HAVE A CONSIDERED REPLY FROM MFA IN A
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FEW WEEKS, AND WILL FORWARD IT TO DEPARTMENT AT THAT TIME.

WE ARE NOT HOPEFUL. AS SELIM HAS ACKNOWLEDGED, GOP POLICY TOWARD THE DIVIDED COUNTRIES OF ASIA IS NOT EVEN-HANDED (WE DID NOT USE THIS ARGUMENT IN URGING A CHANGE) BUT IS DETERMINED BY SUCH CONSIDERATIONS AS PAKISTAN'S TIES WITH CHINA AND THE US AND ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS AS WELL AS BY BILATERAL PROSPECTS. IN THE CASE OF KOREA, THE GOP WAS PREPARED TO BE EVENHANDED IN ITS ROLE IN THE DEBATE AT THE 29TH UNGA LAST YEAR (ABSTAINING ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS), WE WOULD JUDGE PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT SAW SUCH A COURSE AS CAUSING IT LEAST DAMAGE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH PEKING AND WASHINGTON. ON THE ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE SCALE IS WEIGHTED AGAINST US BY FACT THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES WITH SEOUL REPRESENTS A CHANGE WHEREAS PYONGYANG-ONLY APPROACH MERELY MAINTAINS STATUS QUO. (SELIM NOTED IN PASSING THAT HAD ROKG NOT BEEN HOLDING TO ITS HALLSTEIN APPROACH IN NOVEMBER 1972 WHEN GOP ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG, PAKS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE ESTABLISHED TIES WITH SEOUL AS WELL.) APPARENT PAK CONCLUSION THAT CHANGE IN KOREAN RELATIONS POLICY WILL HURT GOP MORE WITH THE PRC THAN IT WILL BENEFIT IT WITH USG, TO WHICH IT BELIEVES IT CAN BE HELPFUL IN MORE APPROPRIATE WAYS, HAS PROBABLY BEEN REINFORCED BY OUR HAVING ALLOWED SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS TO GO BY OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS WITHOUT RAISING THE MATTER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA01812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750072-0597
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750391/aaaadetf.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 37265, 75 ISLAMABAD 4786
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP RELATIONS WITH ROK
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PK, KS, US, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006